

## CLAIMS

1. An imaging system comprising:  
an image acquisition subsystem for performing  
jobs on a worklist;  
an operator interface;  
5 a networking port for communicating with a remote  
worklist broker on a network;  
means for setting the state of each of a plural-  
ity of worklist search fields in response to state  
settings inputted via said operator interface;  
10 task means for formulating a query for worklist  
data corresponding to only worklist search fields  
having either a first state or a second state;  
means for initiating formulation of said query by  
said task means in response to a search instruction  
15 inputted via said operator interface; and  
means for transferring said query to said  
networking port.
2. The system as recited in claim 1, further  
comprising a display screen and means for controlling  
said display screen to display a worklist setup menu  
in response to a first menu selection instruction  
5 inputted via said operator interface, said worklist  
setup menu comprising a list of search field names and  
respective state fields, and said state setting means  
comprising means for toggling each state field through  
said first and second states and a third state in  
10 response to clicking on said state field using said  
operator interface.
3. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein  
said worklist setup menu further comprises a criteria  
field associated with a search field name on said list  
having a state field in said first or second state,

5 and said query formulated by said task means includes a criterion entered in said criteria field on said worklist setup menu using said operator interface.

4. The system as recited in claim 2, further comprising means for controlling said display screen to display a worklist menu in response to a second menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist menu comprising at least one column heading, each column heading being a respective search field name on said worklist setup menu having said second state.

5. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a plurality of display order fields associated with respective search field names on said list having state fields in said second state, and said column headings are displayed on said worklist menu in the order determined by respective entries in said display order fields.

6. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a column heading, and said query formulated by said task means includes a criterion entered in said criteria field on said worklist menu using said operator interface.

7. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a search initiation field, and said search instruction comprises clicking on said search initiation field using said operator interface.

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8. The system as recited in claim 4, further comprising means for receiving worklist data via said networking port in response to transfer of said query, wherein said worklist display control means controls  
5 said display screen to display only subsets of said worklist data corresponding to worklist search fields having said second state, said displayed worklist data subsets being placed under corresponding column headings on said worklist menu.

9. An imaging system comprising:  
an image acquisition subsystem for performing jobs on a worklist;  
an operator interface;  
5 a networking port for communicating with a remote worklist broker on a network; and  
a computer programmed to perform the following steps:  
(a) setting the state of each of a plurality of  
10 worklist search fields in response to state settings inputted via said operator interface;  
(b) formulating a query for worklist data corresponding to only worklist search fields having either a first state or a second state in response to  
15 a search instruction inputted via said operator interface; and  
(c) transferring said query to said networking port.

10. The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising a display screen, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the step of controlling said display screen to display a worklist setup menu  
5 in response to a first menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist setup menu comprising a list of search field names and

10 respective state fields, and said step of setting states comprising the steps of toggling each state field through said first and second states and a third state in response to clicking on said state field using said operator interface.

5 11. The system as recited in claim 10, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a search field name on said list having a state field in said first or second state, and said query formulated by said computer includes a criterion entered in said criteria field using said operator interface.

5 12. The system as recited in claim 10, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the step of controlling said display screen to display a worklist menu in response to a second menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist menu comprising at least one column heading, each column heading being a respective search field name on said worklist setup menu having said second state.

5 13. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a plurality of display order fields associated with respective search field names on said list having state fields in said second state, and said column headings are displayed on said worklist menu in the order determined by respective entries in said display order fields.

14. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a column heading, and said query

includes a criterion entered in said criteria field on  
5 said worklist menu using said operator interface.

15. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein  
said worklist menu further comprises a search initi-  
ation field, and said search instruction comprises  
clicking on said search initiation field using said  
5 operator interface.

16. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein  
said computer is further programmed to perform the  
steps of receiving worklist data via said networking  
port in response to transfer of said query, and  
5 controlling said display screen to display only  
subsets of said worklist data corresponding to  
worklist search fields having said second state, said  
displayed worklist data subsets being placed under  
corresponding column headings on said worklist menu.

17. A method for retrieving worklist data from  
a remote location via a network, comprising the steps  
of:

connecting a networking port of a job-performing  
5 system to a network;

setting the state of each of a plurality of  
worklist search fields in said job-performing system  
in response to state settings inputted via an operator  
interface of said job-performing system;

10 formulating a query for worklist data correspond-  
ing to only worklist search fields having either a  
first state or a second state in response to a search  
instruction inputted via said operator interface; and

transferring said query to said networking port  
15 with a destination address corresponding to a remotely  
located worklist broker.

18. The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of displaying a worklist setup menu on a display screen in response to a first menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist setup menu comprising a list of search field names and respective state fields, each state field toggling through said first and second states and a third state in response to clicking on said state field using said operator interface.

19. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a search field name on said list having a state field in said first or second state, and said query formulated by said computer includes a criterion entered in said criteria field using said operator interface.

20. The method as recited in claim 18, further comprising the step of displaying a worklist menu on said display screen in response to a second menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist menu comprising at least one column heading, each column heading being a respective search field name on said worklist setup menu having said second state.

21. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein said worklist setup menu further comprises a plurality of display order fields associated with respective search field names on said list having state fields in said second state, and said column headings are displayed on said worklist menu in the order determined by respective entries in said display order fields.

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22. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a criteria field associated with a column heading, and said query includes a criterion entered in said criteria field on said worklist menu using said operator interface.

23. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein said worklist menu further comprises a search initiation field, and said search instruction comprises clicking on said search initiation field using said operator interface.

24. The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the steps of receiving worklist data in response to transfer of said query, and displaying on said display screen only subsets of said worklist data corresponding to worklist search fields having said second state, said displayed worklist data subsets being placed under corresponding column headings on said worklist menu.

25. A system comprising:  
 an image acquisition subsystem for performing jobs on a worklist;  
 a display screen;  
 an operator interface;  
 a networking port for communicating with a remote worklist broker on a network; and  
 a computer programmed to perform the following steps:

(a) controlling said display screen to display a worklist setup menu in response to a first menu selection instruction inputted via said operator interface, said worklist setup menu comprising a list of search field names and respective state fields;

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- 15 (b) setting the state of each of a plurality of  
worklist search fields identified by said search field  
names in response to toggling each state field through  
first through third states in response to clicking on  
said state field using said operator interface;
- 20 (c) formulating a query for worklist data  
corresponding to only worklist search fields having  
either said first state or said second state in  
response to a search instruction inputted via said  
operator interface; and
- 25 (d) transferring said query to said networking  
port.

26. The system as recited in claim 25, wherein  
said computer is further programmed to perform the  
step of controlling said display screen to display a  
worklist menu in response to a second menu selection  
5 instruction inputted via said operator interface, said  
worklist menu comprising at least one column heading,  
each column heading being a respective search field  
name on said worklist setup menu having said second  
state.

27. The system as recited in claim 26, wherein  
said worklist setup menu further comprises a plurality  
of display order fields associated with respective  
search field names on said list having state fields in  
5 said second state, and said column headings are  
displayed on said worklist menu in the order deter-  
mined by respective entries in said display order  
fields.

28. The system as recited in claim 26, wherein  
said computer is further programmed to perform the  
steps of receiving worklist data via said networking  
port in response to transfer of said query, and



